

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

(Currently Amended) 1. A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a laminar plate adapted to be generally coextensive with a lower surface of the mailbox;

means for securing the mailbox to the plate;

a one-piece, generally cylindrical sleeve secured to the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

means for securing the post within the sleeve.

(Original) 2. The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the laminar plate is rectangular and has a pair of long edges.

(Currently Amended) 3. The bracket according to claim 2, wherein the means for securing the mailbox to the plate further comprises:

a flange on each of the long edges of the plate extending generally perpendicular to the plate; and

at least one fastener ~~securing~~ adapted to secure the flange to a corresponding flange on the mailbox.

(Original) 4. The bracket according to claim 3 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

(Original) 5. The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the means for securing the post within the sleeve further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and  
a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

(Original) 6. The bracket according to claim 1 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

(Currently Amended) 7. A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges, the upper surface of the plate ~~being~~ adapted to be generally coextensive with and ~~supporting~~ adapted to support a lower surface of the mailbox;

at least one flange on a long edge of the plate, the flange extending generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flange to the mailbox;

a generally continuous cylindrical sleeve secured to lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

a sleeve fastener for securing the post within the sleeve.

(Original) 8. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

(Original) 9. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.

(Original) 10. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the plate is provided with a plurality of lightening holes.

(Original) 11. The bracket according to claim 7 wherein the flange extends from each long edge of the rectangular plate.

(Currently Amended) 12. A bracket for securing a mailbox to an upstanding post, the bracket comprising:

a rectangular plate having an upper surface and a lower surface and a pair of long edges and a pair of short edges, the upper surface of the plate [being] adapted to be

generally coextensive with and ~~supporting~~ adapted to support a lower surface of the mailbox;

a plurality of lightening holes formed in the plate

at flange extending along each long edge of the plate generally perpendicular to and downwardly from the lower surface of the plate;

at least one fastener for securing the flanges to corresponding flanges on the the mailbox;

a generally cylindrical, continuous, and one-piece sleeve secured to lower surface of the plate and extending downwardly therefrom, the sleeve adapted to receive a generally cylindrical post; and

a sleeve fastener for securing the post within the sleeve.

(Original) 13. The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the sleeve fastener further comprises:

an aperture formed through the sleeve and the post; and

a bolt extending through the aperture, thereby securing the sleeve against movement relative to the post.

(Original) 14. The bracket according to claim 12 wherein the fastener is a nut and a bolt.